

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

APPROVAL TO AMEND DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENTS WITH EXODUS RECOVERY, INC., AND ALCOTT CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT WESTSIDE URGENT COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2006-07 AND 2007-08 (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2)

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health (Director) or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute amendments to existing Legal Entity (LE) Agreements with Exodus Recovery, Inc., (Exodus) and Alcott Center for Mental Health Services (Alcott) for implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Westside Urgent Community Services Program (WUCSP) for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2006-07 and 2007-08. For FY 2006-07, these amendments will increase the Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) for Exodus by \$1,723,500, which includes a one-time amount of \$100,000 to cover allowable costs associated with implementing the WUCSP, and for Alcott, the MCA will be increased by \$221,500. For FY 2007-08, these amendments will increase the MCA by \$2,782,300 for Exodus and \$379,700 for Alcott. The Amendments will be effective upon execution through June 30, 2008.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Implementation of the WUCSP will allow immediate access to urgent mental health services for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, thereby ensuring that their special needs are addressed in a sensitive and appropriate manner. The WUCSP will provide specialized treatment services to individuals who would otherwise receive general non-specialized services at local hospitals and emergency rooms. Specialty services of the WUCSP include psychiatric evaluation, crisis intervention, case management support and assessment and treatment for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. In addition, the WUCSP will help address the needs of homeless clients by funding emergency and transitional housing services that will serve as a portal to the mental health system of care.

Provision of the WUCSP is also intended to alleviate overcrowding of local hospital emergency rooms. Hospital emergency room congestion is a particularly acute problem in West Los Angeles (Service Area/Service Planning Area 5) which is geographically distant (approx. 20 miles) from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, the County DHS facility primarily identified to meet the psychiatric emergency needs of individuals and families on the Westside. In

addition, since transportation of clients in crisis taxes public services such as police and paramedics, provision of a local mental health urgent care program will significantly reduce the burden on other public services.

There is no impact or net County cost associated with implementing the WUCSP.

BACKGROUND

On August 3, 2006 DMH issued RFS No. 3 (The WUCC) to 48 qualified bidders on the MHSA Master Agreement list indicating an interest in providing Alternative Crisis Services on their Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). DMH sent agencies who expressed interest in providing Alternative Crisis Services a notice of the release of the RFS along with a compact disc of the RFS, and invited them to attend a mandatory Proposers' Conference on August 17, 2006.

Representatives from five (5) contract agencies attended the Proposers' Conference. DMH received one (1) proposal (a collaborative proposal from Exodus and Alcott) by the deadline of September 12, 2006. Soon after, DMH convened a review panel of five (5) individuals representing consumers, other County departments, and DMH staff to assess and score the proposal. Simultaneously, review of the budget, proposed staffing, quality assurance processes, and reference contacts were conducted by DMH staff. The proposal evaluated by this panel met the requirements to implement all service components offered by the WUCSP. The total score was then reviewed by DMH's Executive Management Team, which finalized its recommendation.

Based on the recommendation of the evaluation panel and by DMH's Executive Management Team, Exodus, acting as the lead agency in the collaborative developed to provide WUCSP services, will provide the services of the mental health urgent care program directly and deliver the emergency shelter bed program, through subcontract agreement with Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC), an established provider of housing services on the Westside. Exodus will collaborate with Alcott Center for Mental Health Services to provide transitional residential services to WUCSP clients.

For FY 2006-07, the total contracted program amount for the WUCSP is \$1,945,000. This amount will be fully funded by FFP Medi-Cal, EPSDT-SGF, and MHSA – CSS funds. Funding for the amendments is included in the Department's FY 2006-07 Adopted Budget. For FY 2007-08, funding for the annualized increase to Exodus and Alcott MCAs is \$3,162,000. This amount will be fully funded by FFP Medi-Cal, EPSDT-SGF, and MHSA – CSS funds. Funding for the amendments will be requested during DMH's annual budget process. Funding beyond FY 2007-08 will be included in the Department's next three-year MHSA plan.

Exodus is located at 9808 Venice Boulevard, 4th Floor, Culver City, California 90232. The organization was established in 1988, offering specialized services to individuals with substance abuse disorders. Exodus has provided mental health services through an existing LE Agreement with Department of Mental Health since 1996. Over the years, the organization has continued to develop its expertise in the provision of treatment for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems, and currently operates several specialized programs including Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Assembly Bill 2034 (AB 2034) through contract with DMH. Exodus elected to enter into a subcontract agreement with OPCC to provide emergency shelter bed services as a part of the supportive housing services offered through the WUCSP. OPCC is a nonprofit organization located at 1453 16th Street, Santa Monica, California 90404. OPCC is the largest and most diverse homeless service provider on the Westside with a successful record of providing an array of housing services in the community since its development in 1963.

Alcott is located at 1433 So. Robertson Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90035. The organization was established in 1979 to provide residential care and supportive services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness and has had a LE Agreement with DMH since 1980. Currently, the agency provides housing for 90 individuals and delivers outpatient mental health services and case management to a total of 200 individuals each year.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Upon Board approval, DMH will amend LE Agreements with Exodus and Alcott to provide the WUCSP services. Exodus has the professional technical expertise and specialized experience in providing urgent mental health services and Alcott has the technical expertise and specialized experience to provide transitional housing services required for this program.

DMH CONTACT

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